



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/844,198	04/27/2001	Nicco Willis	01-40068-US	2147

7066 7590 06/19/2006

REED SMITH LLP
2500 ONE LIBERTY PLACE
1650 MARKET STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

EXAMINER

GREIMEL, JOCELYN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3624

DATE MAILED: 06/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/844,198

Applicant(s)

WILLIS ET AL.

Examiner

Jocelyn W. Greimel

Art Unit

3624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04/27/00.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to Applicant's application filed April 27, 2001 with a provisional application filed April 27, 2000. Claims 1-40 are being examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Brown et al (US Patent No. 7,031,937, hereinafter Brown). In reference to claims 1 and 30-35, Brown discloses a computer-implemented method, system and computer readable medium for determining a cost basis associated with a plurality of shares of a security. In reference to claim 1, Brown discloses the steps of: (A) entering, into a computer system, information identifying an issuer associated with the security, a purchase date of the security, and a number of shares of the security purchased on the purchase date; (B) determining a purchase price per share of the security on the purchase date (col. 3, lines 28-50; col. 5, lines 18-33); (C) retrieving from a database, in response to the information identifying the issuer, the purchase date and the sale date, a list of capital

Art Unit: 3624

events that occurred in connection with the security between the purchase date and sale date; wherein the list of capital events includes at least one event selected from the group consisting of a distribution reinvestment, a spin-off event, a merger event and a split event; and wherein the database stores past price per share information and capital events for a plurality of different securities associated with different issuers (col. 4, lines 55-67; col. 5, lines 56-67); (D) retrieving from a database one or more shares held adjustment ratios, wherein the shares held adjustment ratios correspond to at least one of the capital events that occurred in connection with the security between the purchase date and the sale date, included in the adjustment ratios would be basis calculation including purchase price, purchase date, sale date and/or sale period, capital gain or loss, sale price (col. 7-8; col. 9, lines 14-53); (E) determining a current cost basis associated with the security by applying at least one shares held adjustment ratio to the initial basis of the security; and (F) if multiple shares held adjustment ratios were retrieved from the database, then (i) assigning an intermediate cost basis equal to the current cost basis; (ii) adjusting the current cost basis by applying a further shares held adjustment ratio to the intermediate cost basis; and (iii) repeating steps (i)-(ii) until each further shares held adjustment ratio retrieved from the database has been used to adjust the cost basis of the security, wherein each further shares held adjustment ratio retrieved from the database has an event date associated therewith and is applied in step (F) in a chronological order such that the shares held adjustment ratio associated with a latest event date is applied in a final iteration of step (ii) (col. 3, lines 27-50; col. 5-7; col. 9, lines 4-60).

Art Unit: 3624

4. In reference to claims 2-4, Brown discloses a methods wherein: the price of the security on a purchase date is provided by a user (col. 6, lines 45-67; col. 7, lines 1-47); the price of the security on a purchase date is obtained from a database (col. 6, lines 45-67; col. 7, lines 1-47; col. 16, lines 18-24); and the plurality of different securities include common stocks, mutual funds and closed end bond funds (col. 1, lines 16-67; col. 2, lines 1-45).

5. In reference to claims 5-11, Brown discloses the methods wherein an investor may track a fund by using various types of capital events and acknowledges other embodiments and applications of such methods such as: the shares held adjustment ratio associated with each dividend reinvestment event stored in the database corresponds to a dividend amount issued per share at the time of each such dividend reinvestment event; the shares held adjustment ratio associated with each stock-split event stored in the database corresponds to a number of additional shares of a given security issued for each share of the given security held prior to such stock-split event; the shares held adjustment ratio associated with each merger event stored in the database corresponds to a number of shares of a security associated with a merged entity issued for each share associated with an issuer that merged into the merged entity; the shares held adjustment ratio associated with each spin-off event stored in the database corresponds to a number of shares of a security associated with a spun-off entity issued for each share associated with an issuer that divested the spun-off entity; the shares held adjustment ratio associated with a merger event stored in the database corresponds to a number of shares of a security associated with a merger entity issued

for each share associated with an issuer that merged with the merger entity; the list of capital events includes worthless security events; and the step of notifying a user of the worthless security event, the date of the worthless security event and the basis of the security at the time of the worthless security event (col. 4, lines 55-67; col. 5, lines 56-67; col. 7-8; col. 9, lines 14-53).

6. In reference to claims 12-14, Brown discloses the steps of entering, into a computer system, information identifying an issuer associated with the security, a purchase date of the security, and a number of shares of the security purchased on the purchase date further comprises entering the information into the computer system via graphical user interface (col. 9, lines 14-60) and acknowledges other methods of entering the information such as via a spreadsheet interface or via a batch list (col. 12, lines 22-47).

7. In reference to claims 15-16 and 26-29, Brown also teaches tracking funds using capital events or present market value information obtained via the Internet or other reliable source including: security delisting events, and notifying a user of the delisting event, the date of the delisting event, and the basis of the security of the delisting event; the step of determining whether a security has been relisted after a delisting event; the list of capital events further includes at least one rights issuance; when rights issuance is retrieved as a capital event for a security, notifying the user of the rights issuance, determining whether the rights have been exercised, when the rights have been exercised determining a basis allocation between the original security and a security acquired by exercise of the rights; the list of capital events further includes at least one

Art Unit: 3624

warrants issuance; when a warrants issuance is retrieved as a capital event, notifying the user of the warrants issuance, determining whether the warrant has been exercised and when the warrant has been exercised, determining a basis allocation between the original security and the interest acquired by exercise of the warrant (col. 4, lines 55-67; col. 5, lines 56-67; col. 7-8; col. 9, lines 14-53).

8. In reference to claims 17-22, Brown discloses: a database that stores the capital events for the plurality of the different securities in a first table, and the database stores price information for each of the plurality of securities in at least a second table; the database further stores security issuer information in a third table said security issuer information correlating identification changes in a security; for each capital event stored in the first table, the database includes fields corresponding to a name of a company associated with such capital event, a stock symbol associated with such capital event, a CUSIP number associated with such capital event, a date of such capital event, a type of such capital event, and a shares held adjustment ratio associated with such capital event (col. 5, lines 50-67; col. 9, lines 14-60). Additionally, Brown discloses capital events stored in a first table, the database further includes a field that stores a value correlating the stock symbol and the CUSIP number associated with such capital event; a value correlating the stock symbol and the CUSIP number uniquely identifies an issuer associated with a given security in the database as such issuer undergoes merger events, spin-off events and name change events; and each date for which price information is stored in the second table, the database stores a high price, a low price,

an open price and a close price for each of the plurality of securities (col. 5, lines 50-67; col. 9, lines 14-60).

9. In reference to claims 23-25, Brown discloses managing an investment portfolio comprising a plurality of securities which could include option securities and specifically: determining whether a security for which a present basis is to be determined is an option security, and where the security for which a present basis is sought is an option security, determining whether the option security was exercised; retrieving a shares held adjustment ratio and an exercise price for an option security from a database when it is determined that the option security was exercised, and determining from option security basis and the exercise price a basis in a security obtained by exercise of the option security; and the step of retrieving an expiration date from a database when it is determined that an option security has not been exercised of the option security, the date of such expiration, and the basis of the option securities held on the date of expiration.

10. In reference to claims 36-40, Brown discloses a computer readable medium and means for tracking securities, such as option securities and publicly traded securities. This process can include querying the user for information, retrieving information from a database and adjusting the basis per share of the security. The system employs a graphical user interface, database and related software (col. 3, lines 33-67; col. 4, lines 55-67; col. 5-6; col. 7, lines 4-47; col. 8, lines 43-58; col. 9, lines 14-53).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jocelyn W. Greimel whose telephone number is (571) 272-3734. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached at (571) 272-6747. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jocelyn Greimel
Examiner
June 9, 2006



HANI M. KAZIMI
PRIMARY EXAMINER